

Excerpt from

Powerful Prayers for the Suffering

Emergency Novenas

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and audio versions, please visit:

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Emergency Novena

The word "novena" means "nine," and this prayer dates back to the Ascension, when the apostles returned to Jerusalem and "*devoted themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren*" (Acts 1:14). They spent nine days in prayer before God sent the Holy Spirit to them on the tenth day at Pentecost.

In praying a novena, we should recognize that it is God who is in control of the situation. While we earnestly and persistently present our needs to Him, we acknowledge that ultimately, God knows what is best for us. Novenas are not magic spells or ways to manipulate God, but rather, like the desperate widow who kept asking the judge for an answer (Lk 18:1-7), we are putting our trust in a loving Father who does all things for our greater good. Certain novenas can be powerful and sometimes lead to miraculous results, but there are no "guarantees."

There may be times when we encounter an emergency and we don't have nine days to wait for an answer. That's when we can say an Emergency novena, popularized by St. Teresa of Calcutta. Mother Teresa would often have many intentions that needed a quick answer, and so she would say her "Flying Novena" (sometimes called the Express Novena). She would pray nine consecutive Memorare prayers to Our Lady, and then add a tenth Memorare prayer in thanksgiving. These prayers (or other novena prayers like the Sacred Heart Novena) can be said either once every hour for nine consecutive hours during a day, or nine times in a row, followed by a prayer of thanksgiving.



Mary's Memorare

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to your protection, implored your help, or sought your intercession was left unaided.

Inspired by this confidence, I fly unto you, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother.

To you I come, before you I stand, sinful and sorrowful.

O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in your mercy hear and answer me. Amen.

St. Joseph's Memorare

Remember, O most chaste spouse of the Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who implored your help and sought your intercession was left unassisted.

Full of confidence in your power, I fly unto you and beg your protection.

Despise not, O Guardian of the Redeemer, my humble supplication, but in your bounty, hear and answer me. Amen.

Infant Jesus of Prague Novena

Devotion to Jesus as a child is a long-standing tradition going back to the early Church Fathers, like St. Athanasius and St. Jerome, and later saints helped increase this devotion. Meditation on “the hidden life [of Jesus] at Nazareth allows everyone to enter into fellowship with Jesus by the most ordinary events of daily life.” (CCC 533).

The statue known as the “Infant of Prague” is about 18 inches tall, and has a rich history and numerous miracles attributed this devotion to the child Jesus (<https://catholicsaints.info/the-miraculous-infant-jesus-of-prague-by-father-peter-davies-o-carm/>). As Jesus told Fr. Cyril who repaired the statue: “*The more you honor Me, the more I will bless you.*” There are two prayers that are commonly used for this special novena:

Efficacious Prayer to the Holy Child Jesus

(as revealed by the Blessed Mother to Father Cyril)



O Child Jesus, I have recourse to You through Your Holy Mother; I implore You to assist me in this necessity, for I firmly believe that Your Divinity can assist me. I confidently hope to obtain Your holy grace. I love You with my whole heart and my whole soul. I am heartily sorry for my sins, and entreat You, O good Jesus, to give me strength to overcome them. I am firmly resolved never to offend You again and to suffer everything rather than displease You. Henceforth, I wish to serve You faithfully. For love of You, O divine Child, I will love

my neighbor as myself. O Jesus, omnipotent Child, I entreat You again to come to my assistance in this necessity (mention it). Grant me the grace of possessing You eternally with Mary and Joseph and of adoring You with Your Holy Angels and Saints. Amen.

Infant of Prague Urgent Novena

(This Novena is to be said at the same time every hour for nine consecutive hours.)

O Jesus, Who has said, “ask and you shall receive, seek and you shall find, knock and it shall be opened to you”, through the intercession of Mary, Your most Holy Mother, I knock, I seek, I ask that my prayer be granted. *(Make Your Request)*

O Jesus, Who has said, “all that you ask of the Father in My Name, He will grant you”, through the intercession of Mary Your Most Holy Mother, I humbly and earnestly ask Your Father in Your name that my prayer be granted. *(Make Your Request)*

O Jesus, Who has said, “Heaven and Earth shall pass away but my word shall not pass”, through the intercession of Mary, Your Most Holy Mother, I feel confident that my prayer will be granted. *(Make Your Request)*

O Divine Child of Prague, and still the great omnipotent God, I implore through Your Most Holy Mother’s most powerful intercession and through the boundless mercy of Your omnipotence answer to the Intention I so earnestly ask for in this Novena. O Divine Child of Prague, hear my prayer and grant my petition. *(Say Three Times)*

Say 1 Our Father, and 1 Hail Mary

Excerpt from **POWERFUL PRAYERS FOR THE SUFFERING**

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Designed by Clare (Haislmaier) Frasca

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Informal Extension of the Catholic Diocese of Arlington Hospital Ministry

7401 St. Michael's Lane

Annandale, Virginia 22003

HospitalMinistry@arlingtondiocese.org

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